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AUG 9 1957

LIBRARY SCIENCE LIBRARY

LIBRARY NEWS



LIBRARY COMMISSION BOARD Mississippi Library News Mrs. C. A. Doster, Durant, Chairman Miss Anona Jenkins, Clarksdale, Secretary JUNE, 1957 Mrs. C. C. Jennings, Sardis Miss Elisabeth Wise, Hazlehurst VOLUME 21, No. 2 Mr. J. W. Hudspeth, Cockrum Issued Quarterly By LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION President _____ Mary Love Jackson Elementary Schools And Vice-President _____ Jeanne Broach MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY Meridian Public Library ASSOCIATION Secretary _____ Nellie Ford Smith Mississippi College EDITORIAL BOARD ... Mrs. Kay Cooley Treasurer _____ Sybil Hanna Library Commission Jackson Municipal Library Business Manager Margarete Peebles State College Parliamentarian _____ Mrs. C. A. Doster Mississippi Library Commission Board College Library Reporter Virginia C. Robinson Mississippi State College for Women Public Library Reporter _____ Mrs. Barbara Cox OUR COVER Jackson Municipal Library U. S. Senator John Stennis of Mississippi, School Library Reporter _____ To Be Announced whose interest and efforts did much to bring about the passage of the Library Special Library Services Act and to secure the recent Reporter Mrs. Ruth Scharr Keesler Air Force Base \$5,000,000 appropriation for carrying out the Act.

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Thanks To Senator Stennis

Kay B. Cooley, Editor Mississippi Library News

It is one thing to be for libraries. Most people are - or, at least, they are not against libraries.

But to be for libraries when it really matters in a practical, financial way is something else again. To be for libraries when it means standing up before the Senate Approportations Committee and saying so is considerably more than not being against libraries.

United States Senator John Stennis measures up admirably on being for libraries in every sense of the word.

It appears that the best way to illustrate Senator Stennis's activities on behalf of libraries is to quote his statement made before the United States Appropriations Sub-Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, May 14, 1957:

"Mr. Chairman: I would like to begin my remarks by urging the Committee's support of the \$7,500,000 figure for the Library Services program. This activity, which makes available to our farm people the facilities of libraries which heretofore have been restricted to the metropolitan areas, has found the most cordial reception at all levels. It is an example of what can be done by federal-state cooperation and those who live with this program and believe in it feel most gratified about its administration. After referring to the healthy climate of cooperation between the state and federal offices, the director of the Mississippi Library Commission characterizes it as "librarianship at its best" as contrasted with "bureaucracy at its worst."

The rapidly changing scientific concepts of our age have brought a concentrated emphasis on education which is unparalleled in American history. The people are eager for knowledge and anxious to keep up with current advancements and those who need this help most are those who benefit from this program of operation.

I sincerely hope that the Committee will be able to support the \$7,500,000 appropriation this year and believe that no education money could be more wisely spent than for the support of this Library Services program."

FLASH!

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The U. S. Senate approved a \$5,000,000 appropriation for the Library Services Act on June 12.

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Library Association

THE CLARKSDALE CONVENTION

Who Will Be There and What We Will Do There

Red Letter Days are ahead for librarians, library trustees, and friends of libraries. Circle your calendar in red on October 24, 25, and 26 to remind you to prepare in advance to attend the Association convention in Clarksdale at that time.

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NEWS

One of the highlights of the conference will be the appearance of Dr. Lowell Martin, Dean of the Graduate School of Library Service of Rutgers University. Dr. Martin has graciously taken time out of a busy schedule to speak to the Association on Friday morning of the meeting.

Another special treat in the way of speakers is Friday night's banquet speaker, who will be **Dr. Bruce Weirich** of the University of Illinois.

The usual pre-conference workshop for public librarians will be held on Thursday, October 24.

On Thursday evening, exhibitors will be introduced by student library assistants. Open house at the Clarksdale library will follow the meeting.

A luncheon for trustees will take place at the Country Club at noon Friday. A trustees meeting will follow at 2:30. Also on schedule at 2:30 is a business meeting for school librarians.

A late afternoon tour will be arranged for those who want to participate in it.

College and university librarians have planned an 8:30 breakfast on Saturday morning, to be followed by a workshop on library supplies and equipment. Helen Geer will act as consultant. Other librarians are invited to this workshop.

Plans have not been completed for the special librarians, but a breakfast meeting is in the offing.

Convention headquarters in Clarksdale will be at the Alcazar Hotel. Anona Jenkins of the Carnegie Public Library is chairman of local arrangements.

George F Maynard, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees of the Clarksdale library, welcomes librarians to his city;

"The members of the Board of Trustees are delighted that the next convention of the Mississippi Library Association is to be in Clarksdale. We shall do all we can to make your visit here a pleasant one and we extend to each member of your Association a most cordial invitation to be present at this October meeting."

Section Chairman Selected

Public Library _____ Mrs. Celia Wygul First Regional Library

School Library _____ Sue Coltharp Potts Camp Consolidated School

Trustee _____ Rev. J. Russell Nunan W. A. Percy Memorial Library

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



MARY LOVE

Plans are well underway for our convention in October. The Executive Board met in Clarksdale on the weekend of April 6 and got the framework of the program laid out. The Board also was able to look Clarksdale over in person and we found that the town did itself proud. If the hospitality shown us is a sample of what will be shown to the whole association - and I know it is - we cannot have gone wrong in the selection of a convention site. Everyone connected in any way with the mechanics of the meeting was most cooperative. Incidentally, anyone who has not been in on the planning of an annual meeting of an organization should try it once. It is amazing and interesting to note the number and kinds of items that have to be considered.

We are trying something new this time in the way that the registration is done. We are going to send pre-registration blanks to every member so that there will not be a bottleneck at the registration desk during the convention. The blanks are being sent to members only because of the fact that the addressograph plates are made only to them. There will still be registration at the convention, but by this method we hope to get the bulk of the registration done before the meeting. These blanks will give you

the prices and times of all meals to be served, the amount of registration fee, etc. Be on the lookout for them during the latter part of September — and please return them promptly! That will certainly help the tickets and registration committee.

The meeting this October will be the one at which the new officers will be elected. Mrs. Claudia Landrum, Librarian at Mississippi College, is chairman of the nominating committee, and I am sure she will welcome some suggestions for new officers. Remember that we have a secretary and a treasurer now. Also, it is time for the election of the ALA council member. Anona Jenkins' term expires at the annual meeting of the ALA in June.

Library Commission

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A particularly sizable welcome mat has been unrolled for the Commission's new Commissioner, Mr. W. L. Caughman of Magee.

Mr. Caughman was appointed to the Board of Commissioners by Governor J. P. Coleman, to fill the vacancy which will take place on the Board July 1. At that time, the term of Mrs. C. C. Jennings of Sardis will expire.

The particular niche to which Mr. Caughman has been appointed must be filled by a trustee of a legally appointed library board. Mr. Caughman is certainly that in his role of a trustee of the Capital Area Regional Library.

But he is more than that. He has long been actively interested in civic and educational matters, first as an educator and then as a businessman.

Having been a school superintendent did not limit his interest in library development to schools. He took an active part in making it possible for his home county of Simpson to have library service by joining the Capital Area Regional Library system. It is only natural that he is his county's representative on that library's board of trustees.

The Board of Commissioners and the staff of the Library Commission are happy to have Mr. Caughman as a commissioner.

CCC is not Civilian Conservation Corps

CCC in Library Commission parlance is Mrs. C. C. Clark, Supervisor of Group Services. And AEA stands for adult education activities.

In addition to activities reported elsewhere in this publication, Mrs. Clark has participated in the following AEA since her last reporting: As a member of the Adult Education Coordinating Committee of Mississippi, she was hostess at a meeting of the Committee in the Library Commission headquarters on May 9.

Twenty persons were present at the meeting. Professor E. F. Yerby of Ole Miss will be chairman of the Executive Committee for the coming year and Jeanne Broach of the Meridian Public Library will serve as secretary.

A workshop emphasizing adult education methods will be sponsored by the Committee on December 3. The place has not been decided.

The Coordinating Committee is to be enlarged to include all people vitally concerned with adult education. Invitations will be sent out by the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Clark attended the Southern Regional Conference on Education Beyond High School at Louisville April 23-25.

She also summarized the discussion of the State Education Coordinating Committee meeting May 8 in the conference room of the Farm Bureau building.

Congratulations to Currier

On being invited by the Florida State Library to

be a consultant at an August meeting for the purpose

of launching their extension program.

On being asked to be the banquet speaker

at the Indiana Library Association Convention in October.

On having an article published by the April ALA Bulletin.

On being quoted by Library Journal of May 15 re her "40,000 Items of Good News" article in the March issue of MLN.

On receiving new honors to be reported later.



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From the Desk of the Director



LURA G. CURRIER

VACATION DAZE

The Library Commission is off for the summer — off in all directions at once. Literally.

June, July, and August will see a new approach to the field work of the state agency. Baseball fans would probably refer to it as the big inning; militarists might call it the big push. We prefer to think of it as the Big Opportunity.

There was statewide agreement that one of the purposes to which funds from the Library Service Act should be put was to "Strengthen the state agency." How and for what purpose? The Library Commission has no reason for existence except that it

shall help in the development of local library service. Every shaft of growth must be aimed toward that single purpose.

When local librarians, trustees and other citizens are asked what they need most, the answer is almost unanimous: more trained and experienced help. Stacks of letters to the Commission bear further testimony to that and through them all runs the thread: "We want our library to be brought up to standards" or "We want to get started off right." Encouragingly isolated are the instances when elected officials and boards of trustees now feel that "anybody can dish out books." The snowballing interest of Mississippi citizens in their libraries has quality as well as quantity.

(Next Page)

The futility of trying to provide adequate and acceptable technical assistance to the entire state with one field worker and three or four occasional persons, each already occupied with her own full-time job of another nature, is obvious. We have finally had to concede to geography that the same person cannot be in Leland and Picayune simultaneously and that one staff member cannot work in Pascagoula and Holly Springs at the same time.

This means just one thing - more skilled librarians on the Commission staff. But where are they to be found? Unable to secure the quality of personnel that is needed, we have refused, during the past few months, to settle for "just anybody." We hope that the problem never makes us that desperate. It is ability we need, not numbers. And we have found that ability in some excellent school librarians who do not work at their regular positions during summer. We feel that the libraries in the state and the Commission will be better served to have four librarians with skill and experience at work for three months than to settle for twelve months of mediocrity. We have these librarians in Mary Love, Alberta Edmondson, Dorolyn Matthews, and Verlie Duncan.

We plan to use the squadron approach. A team will concentrate on one given set of tasks in a specified library until things get shaped up. This will probably be of immense relief to some of the patient trustees who have worried along with our necessarily spasmodic attempts to weed and catalog their collections, reorganize their routines, etc.

What will they be doing? That will depend upon what trustees and librarians feel is most needed. The basic principle of the library law still remains: "The Library Commission shall, when asked . . . " The formidable list of work involvements that lies on the Director's desk - and on her conscience, too - assures that there will be no idle hands among them. But still we want to hear from other local libraries. What do you need most in the way of service? If you could have some trained librarians at work in your library for a week or two what would you like them to do? Have you, like us, set aside many things that needed doing until that hoped-for day "when we have time." Maybe this is that

The instructions to these new "outfielders" have been simple, but explicit: come to work on June 10 with suitcase in hand and we will see you back in Jackson in September. They are literally off for the summer — off in all directions.

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Who Does What At The Library Commission

Kay Cooley Associate Director



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TECHNICAL PROCESSES

(Note: This is the third in a series of five articles to describe the work of the Library Commission by department and to introduce the persons who work in each department).

"Now, if you want to get technical . . . " We do want to get technical but not in the usual sense of the word. We just want to get technical in the processing of books and other materials — and not too technical even then.

The responsibility of the Technical Processes Department is to prepare books and other materials for circulation, to keep adequate records, and to organize them for easy accessibility through the maintenance of a card catalog and a shelf list. These processes are carried on not only for the holdings of the Library Commission but also for libraries throughout the state which need this help.

The processing of books for libraries out in the state is accomplished partly by remote control, which is a story in itself. Field workers carry along dictating machines on which they record the necessary trade information of a book collection to enable the catalogers to make shelf list cards without having the books in hand. They simply listen to the records made by the field workers. Book pockets and book cards are also typed from the information on the records. The preparation of the books for the shelves must be done in the local libraries, of course.

Norma Wood (who is Mrs. Robert D. "Bob" Wood) is chief technician at the Commission.

Cataloging books is certainly nothing new to her. She has cataloged divers books in divers places before coming to head MLC's Technical Processes Department in October, 1955.

Norma has been sort of batting in the clean-up spot all along, too — that is, as far as technical processes in concerned. She has done a great deal of revising and refiling in the card catalog — one of those things that has been hanging fire, you know, "until we can get to it."



MAUDIE ROGERS

Typist and Girl Friday in the TP Department is Maudie Rogers.

Maudie is a native of Covington County, where she graduated from Salem High School. Her business training was received at Draughon's Business College in Jackson. Since December, 1956, she has been on the Commission staff.

In her home base department, Maudie types and files catalog cards, letters books, etc. She has also learned circulation routines so that she can pinch-hit in that department.

But wait! There's more! Maudie is also in the process of learning to operate sundry types of machines so that she can give some much needed assistance to the production department.

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College Libraries

The Jamestown Festival

Your ancestors may not have come over in the Mayflower I or Mayflower II, but you can buy the whole story behind the Jamestown Festival in 23 official historical booklets distributed by Barrett and Massie, 1406 East Franklin Street, Richmond, Va., price 50 cents each, or \$11.50 for the boxed set. The series is a non-profit venture that will prove valuable to libraries.

Cum Laude

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It bodes well for the future to know that the library profession is attracting some of our best students nowadays. For instance, 13 of the 25 campus leaders and library science majors who have finished their college careers cum laude or magna cum laude since 1942 at MSCW are still serving as librarians in the state. Among this number are Patti Carr Black, magna cum laude, 1955, recently transferred from the University of Mississippi Library to the Department of Archives and History, Jackson, and Sally Ann McLeod Koenig, cum laude, 1955, recently added to that cataloging staff at Mississippi State College.

Billie Bozone, library science senior, won the Sweepstakes Award at the recent Southern Literary Festival for her one-act play, "The Migration of Jason Loper, "which was later successfully produced at Mississippi Southern College. Billie will do graduate work at Emory University.

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Flash! From All Saints

"Plans for a new building are posted in the hall," reports excited Mrs. Josephine H. Alexander, librarian at All Saints Episcopal Junior College at Vicksburg. "We think this is more than a pipe dream because so far every plan that has been drawn up by an architect, and hung in the hall, has materialized."

Congratulations, Mrs. Alexanderl Perhaps others will follow your suggestion and hang their dreams in the hall.

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EWS





HOMECOMING — Many long overdue books came home at Delta State College as the result of the "campaign" carried on by the library. Such gimmicks as shown in the above pictures were effective in making the homecoming a success.

Bring 'Em Back Alive

Eleanor Harkins, librarian at Delta State College, found a way to protect the book collection from the vandalism of carelessness when she declared April first "fine free" (no fooling) in order to encourage the return of all books that might be lost, strayed or overdue. Campus trash containers were transformed into book receivers bearing signs that read : "Garbage? No! Leave Overdue Books, Keep Your mon." Posters in the student activity center urged students to "Make a Bee Line to the Library and Bank Your Pennies." A pair of scales in the dinning room bore the caption: "You Forgot to Remember," balanced by the library's promise, "We'll Remember to Forget."

Mabel Brister, assistant librarian, was aided in the book return campaign by student assistants, Jonett Sanford and Carolyn Ray Elliott. Many long overdue books came home. What's New, What's Helpful?

If you can find or buy a batch of discarded kindergarten chairs, they are just the thing to distribute in your open stacks as step-stools or roosts for browsers.

A drop or two of shellac or thinner will remove that old number from the back of a book much more quickly than a lot of scrubbing or scraping.

For easier poster printing, "Magic Marker" is the thing. It's a quick-drying felt pencil that comes in all colors.

Accessioning from a bindery slip or an order card is much easier than handling heavy volumes. Stamp the number on the book, the book cards and the slips, all at the same time.

Send us some more suggestions like the above.

If you have not paid your MLA dues for 1957, send your two dollars to Sybil Hanna, Jackson Municipal Library, Jackson.

Public Libraries

Birth Announcements

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The Lee County Library announces the birth of 2000 volume branch library on May 11, 1957 in Fulton, Mississippi. The new library has been named the Itawamba County Library.

The Jaycees and the Fulton Civic Club have been named the proud godparents.

The library was formerly opened on Saturday afternoon with Mrs. Delmus Harden, branch librarian, in charge of the program.

Among those present for the occasion were Mayor J. H. Gilliland; Superintendent of Education, Dexter A. Digby; Mrs. Lura Currier, Director of the Mississippi Library Commission; the Itawamba Junior College band; members of the Board of Supervisors; representatives of civic clubs; members of Itawamba Advisory Board; and Lee County Trustees.

Air-conditioning is about to be born in the Fisk Library in Natchez. (Incidentally money for the cool device was accumulated through the unusual salary item — they couldn't find a children's librarian!)

Also new at Natchez is a quiet reading room, private librarian's office and a work-room. The staff members pitched in and painted the workroom and office.

Publicity

In spring, a young librarian's fancy turns to the public and publicity. Over in Aberdeen, Lucille Peacock gets the year's award for most and effective publicity. The Wilson Library Bulletin, in March, wrote flatteringly of the booklet "Let's Tour Aberdeen."

Lucille wrote a long, front-page story on the Evans Memorial Library for the Highlander, high school paper.

WMPA, radio station, has a daily program "Morning in Aberdeen." By telephoneradio, the library has a 5-minute spot every day titled "Moments in Local History."

The Ada Sessions Fant Memorial Library at Macon has a weekly guest reviewer column, "At the Library."

Popular annual exhibit at Clarksdale is "Vacation-Time." Complete and late information available on vacation spots, maps, flights, and activities is kept for interested patrons.

Clarksdale participated in Hospital Week by having a display, "Careers That Count." Free pamphlets and materials on hospital work in all phases was available for students and parents.

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ANOTHER FORWARD STEP IN ITAWAMBA COUNTY — The opening of the Itawamba County Library May 11 marked another milestone in the history of progress in Itawamba County. Pictured holding the ribbon just prior to the opening ceremonies are: Mrs. Tiras Gray, Chairman Library Advisory Board; Mayor J. H. Gilliland; Mrs. Lura G. Currier, Director Mississippi Library Commission; Mrs. D. C. Harden, Librarian; Mrs. Elizabeth Holcomb, Lee County Librarian; and Dexter Digby, County Superintendent of Education.



FORWARD MARCH

Choctaw County

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ura ian; rinFormal openings at Mississippi's two newest cooperative library ventures makes formal what has been legal and official for several months.

On Saturday afternoon, March 16, the Choctaw member of the Tombigbee Regional Library did itself proud with a dedication ceremony and open house at the library in Ackerman.

Highlight of the occasion, of course, was the presence of Choctaw's most distinguished citizen, Governor I. P. Coleman.

Governor Coleman, in a few well-chosen words before cutting the ribbon, reminded his fellow Choctaw Countians that he spoke to them not as a Governor of Mississippi but as a citizen of the county.

The Governor expressed his agreement with those who hold that the reading of

books unlocks the world's treasure chest. It was his hope, he said, that the people of Choctaw County would see to it that the books made available by the new library service were well read.

Itawamba County

Itawamba County may not have had the Governor at its ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 11, but it was certainly well attended by outstanding citizens of the county.

It is with justifiable pride that Itawamba County points to its new library and the especially fine quality of its beginning book collection.

Library service by contract with the Lee County Library is working out well. It would appear that Itawamba County made a wise move when it "joined up" with Lee County.

A nationwide effort to interest more young men and women to become librarians was given a substantial boost at the Midwinter Meeting of ALA by a gift of more than \$17,500 to library schools for scholarships.

The scholarships are the gift of the H. W. Wilson Company. Each of the library schools accredited by ALA will receive \$500.

All of the scholarships will not be given at once but will be given in groups of ten each year, beginning in 1957. Names were drawn to see which library schools receive scholarships for which year. "In 'Operation Library' a major project of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the American public library has before it a long sought opportunity. Librarians and library boards will have only themselves to blame if they fail to make the most of it . . In some communities the Jaycees will make an initial approach to libraries — In others the initial contact may be made by the library to the Jaycees. . . . The good which 'Operation Library' can do is priceless. It is what all of us have wanted for many years, and its facets are

can do is priceless. It is what all of us have wanted for many years, and its facets are many. What we make of this tender of support is up to you." Quoted from article in Illinois bulletin by Arthur H. Parsons, Chairman ALA Committee on "Operation Library."

GOVERNOR CUTS RIBBON — Governor J. P. Coleman was on hand to cut the ribbon at the dedication of the library in his hometown of Ackerman. Choctaw County "joined up" with the Tombigbee Regional Library.

Remember — Mississippi Library Association meeting in Clarksdale October 24-26. Make your reservations NOW! A good time and a little learning is promised for all. If you have any questions about reservations or local facilities, address your inquiry to Anona Jenkins, Carnegie Public Library, Clarksdale. Mississippi.

BOOK SELECTION CONFERENCE



These are the librarians who participated in the Book Selection Conference. Not shown in the picture is Jeanne Broach of Meridian who also took part in the sessions.

Thirteen Mississippi public librarians participated in the April Book Selection Conference sponsored by the Mississippi Library Commission through the use of Federal funds recently received.

Experienced administrative librarians from areas which serve rural population were invited to take part in the two-day Conference which was held in the Library Commission headquarters in the State Office Building in Jackson.

The aim of the conference was to produce a basic list of books to be used as a measuring stick for book collections in Mississippi's small libraries and branch libraries.

The 13 librarians, joined by members of the Commission staff, worked in three groups each assigned certain subject fields. At the close of the session, each group presented its recommendations to the whole conference for approval or disapproval. The funds which made the Book Selection Conference possible accrued from the Library Services Act. Such a meeting had long been in the planning stage, but funds for it had never been available until Congress passed the Library Services Act for the further extension of public library service to rural areas.

The Act, which was signed into law by President Eisenhower in June of 1956, provides a basic \$40,000 grant-in-aid for the fiscal period of January 1-July 1, 1957, to all of the 48 states which meet the requirements set forth by the Act. Mississippi qualified for the grant early in the program.

The basic book list which resulted from the Book Selection Conference is being put into final form at the Library Commission and will be available to librarians throughout the state at a later date.



Have you ever seen an Egg Tree? The Tallahatchie County Library at Charleston had a handsome Egg Tree for the local children this Easter. More than 35 boys and girls were on hand at the Saturday story hour to hear Katherine Milhous's The Egg Tree read by Librarian Sara Dickson. Then came the Egg Tree itself! Eggs on the tree included: choir boys, the Christ child, Brer Rabbit, Elsie the Cow, and many others. You'd have to see it to believe the Egg Tree!

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Greenwood-Leflore Story

"All that a library should be" is the aim, philosophy and guiding principle of the Greenwood-Leflore Public Library. Every decision by the board, staff, and head librarian is dedicated to making that library "All that a library should be."

Sincere interest and participation of the citizens have contributed since the very beginning to the making of this busy bee-hive of a library. In 1914, the local Woman's Club and the U. D. C. cooperated to help the community raise \$10,000. An equal grant from the Carnegie Foundation made a fine building and the beginning of a fine library a reality. The library opened its doors with 970 books and an annual appropriation of \$1,000 from the city. By 1920, the county had joined hands with Greenwood-Leflore Public Library.

Busy Years

Growth has been steady throughout the years. This is best reflected by budget comparisons — from \$1,000 in 1914 to \$32,440 in 1957. Early circulation figures record 1,212 books loaned in 1922. The greatest period of expansion was 1949 to 1954, when circulation more than doubled. The exhausted librarians claimed to have handed out books with hands, feet, teeth, or ears!

Five branch libraries well-established by the time 1949 rolled around. The Negro High School is the home of the Negro service branch. Current goal is bookmobile service to all the adults and schools of the county.

Staff members are currently preparing for the annual summer deluge. When school is out, the whole student body moves — in one tremendous wave — to the library. Branch libraries have all the youthful patrons that can crowd in the doors.

Vacation Reading Clubs have become an important part of the program. In the summer of 1956, the children read 16,599 books. Teachers, school principals, parents and children think Vacation Reading Clubs are wonderful. They do make the library and branches busy places during summer. This summer there will be two additional study hours in connection with the Reading Clubs.

Voice of Experience

When major addition to a library building is necessary, start from scratch and have an ALL NEW building if possible. Adding to an old building is a headache — especially when one must consider floor levels, departments, basements, exterior architecture, money, etc., etc., etc. Building a library is like building a house. During planning, some compromise must be made between dreams and budget; during construction everyone keeps watching, working





and hoping; at the completion, you move in and forget all the trouble and wonder how anyone could have lived "BNB" (Before New Building).

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Construction on the new building began August 1954; the entire library contents were moved into the new building in September, 1955; children's and young adult's materials were moved back into the remodeled old building in January, 1956. Odds and ends were worked on until Aug., 1956, when the board and staff decided to forget about more odds and ends.

The new building, new shelving and furniture throughout, and remodeling the old building cost \$100,000. Square feet in

JBRARIAN, Dorothy Hayes, meets with her board: lufus Stainback; Mrs. S. G. Mounger; Dan Kelly; lev. Jones S. Hamilton; and Mrs. N. C. Brewer, r., President. Picture shows one end of Children's

The Staff members are shown with the McBee collection: Mrs. Sharlie Wells, Assistant Librarian dl Cataloger; Mrs. J. Ellis Williams (part-time) in harge of second floor (Music and Art, Magazines, ion-Fiction, May Wilson McBee Collection); Mrs. John (ell), Circulation and book mending; Mrs. John (ell), Circulation and Displays and Bulletin Boards; frs. Bill Stallings, Clerical work and circulation; frs. Gordon Jones, Circulation assistant and publicity. The Display Case shown is in the center of adult liction, Main Floor.

old building (including basement) — 2,288. New building (including basement) has 6,912 square feet, so the library grew from 2,200 square feet to 9,200 square feet. Every inch is needed—and used.

The new building has opened a whole new world to library patrons and given the staff and board a renewed determination to have this library become all that a library should be.



JUNE, 1957

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School Libraries

Workshop Whys and Wherefores

The annual library workshop will be held this summer at Mississippi Southern College in cooperation with the State Department of Education July 28-August 2.

Serving as consultant again this year will be Miss Fannie Schmitt, chairman of the department of library science, Florence State Teachers College, Florence, Alabama.

"Library Resources: Free and Inexpensive Materials" is the theme for the week's conference and will be the first in a new series. A prerequisite of at least nine quarter hours in library science is required, and the workshop carries a credit of 1½ quarter hours.

Applications for the library workshop should be sent to:

Library Workshop

Mississippi Southern College Library Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Student Assistant Activities

Harold Wilson, Gulfport High School, was chosen president of the Student Library Assistants group of Region VII at the spring meeting. To serve with him for the coming year will be Phyllis Allen, Lyman, as vice-president; Dimple Sauls, Gulfport, as secretary; Joanna Saucier, Biloxi, as treasurer; and Sandra Fredericks, Biloxi, as reporter.

The fall meeting will be held in Biloxi with the date to be announced later.

Student Assistants of the Southern Central Division and the librarians held the seventh annual meeting of this group in Laurel on Saturday, April 13. This division is comprised of seven counties — Jones, Forrest, Perry, Covington, Lamar, Greene, and George.

Cecil Jackson, Laurel, was elected president of the student group; Marianne La-Berge, Laurel, was chosen secretary; Mary Ann Cameron, Collins, is vice-president, and Claudette Graves. Collins, is reporter.

The adult group elected Mrs. R. E. L. Gentry of Collins as treasurer to succeed Janey Sullivan of Hattiesburg Junior High School. Mabel Bacot, Laurel, was chosen as advisor for student assistants. Mrs. Doye Dickey, Stewart M. Jones Junior High School Librarian, is president and Miss Dickey is secretary.

The next meeting is tentatively set for October 17, the place to be decided later.

Twenty members of the Gulfport High School Library Club visited Jackson on April 29-30 for a tour of libraries. Miss Lillye D. Harding, librarian and sponsor of the group, planned the tour of library visits, working with Alice Hamer, Library Super-

This library field trip is an annual affair for the Gulfport Library Club, and among library centers which have been visited are New Orleans, Mobile, and Hattiesburg.

Monday's tour included visits to the State Department of Education, the Mississippi Library Commission, the State Library, Central High School Library, Murrah High High School Library, Millsaps Library, and the Jackson Municipal Library. Tuesday the group visited the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Hardy Junior High School Library, Provine High School Library, and the Livingston Park Library Branch.

INVENTORY TIME AND ANNUAL REPORTS

Alice Hamer

School libraries over the nation during the past few weeks have been in the throes of inventory and annual reports to school administrators. Likewise, accrediting commissions and many state departments of education have taken time out for another look at the school library picture.

In Mississippi we were more encouraged than discouraged at the picture. Not only are many school libraries receiving more attractive quarters with the school building program, but there is a definite increase in emphasis in quality of school libraries and school librarians.

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Almost one-third of the white high schools of the state, or 139 schools, are served by full-time librarians, a statistical fact which points to improvement in library services for Mississippi schools. There are 53 school librarians spending one-half of each school day in the library, and 299 part-time or teacher—librarians who teach more than one-half of the school day.

Twenty-four of the white high school librarians hold a AA certificate for librarians; fifty-one hold an A certificate for librarians.

Exclusive of this certification, the number of librarians with more than 24 quarter hours credit in library science courses totals 115; those having at least 18 quarter hours but less than 24 quarter hours total 122. Forty-two have at least 13½ quarter hours, and 96 have at least 9 quarter hours. Forty-one of the librarians have less than the 9 quarter hours, minimum standards, and only fourteen have no library training whatso-ever.

Among the white high schools the total book collection is reported for the state as 892,936 volumes, and for the past year the total expenditure for books, periodicals, etc., for white high school libraries was \$186,641.95. The average expenditure per pupil was well above the minimum requirements of \$1.25, although many of the individual schools failed to budget and spend the mini-

mum per pupil. The average was maintained by the heavy budgeting for library books among some of the larger schools.

Among the junior high school libraries of the state, 17 have full-time librarians, two are staffed by two full-time librarians, each, and only one has a part-time librarian. Four of these librarians hold a AA certificate for librarians; nine have an A certificate for librarians; two have more than 24 quarter hours in library science; one has 18 quarter hours, three have at least 9 quarter hours but less than 18 quarter hours, one has less than 9 quarter hours, and one has no library training at all.

The study of elementary school library service has not been completed at this time, but in looking at the elementary schools, one finds the central library, staffed by a trained librarian, as very much the exception. Certainly this should be a big objective for school administrators, for elementary teachers, for school patrons, and for all friends of elementary education in the state.

A similar study is underway for the negro schools of the state. In all of the schools emphasis is being placed on standards of quality — quality in the book collection, quality in the library facilities, and quality in library service. Schools should not be content to strive for standards quantity of alone. Numbers of books mean nothing, any librarian will remind you, unless the collection recommends itself for school library use by students, teachers, and administrators. In like manner, the poorest school librarian in the state could also have more than the required training for certification.

This summary, then, represents a statistical study of school library service with standards of quantity as the measuring stick. Our standards do not provide an easy measure for the factors of quality. That cannot be summarized for the annual report. Let us hope that in every instance of a school library that the two go hand in hand.

Special Libraries

Enthusiasm Great

The big news item in regard to special libraries this quarter is that our special librarians really feel their libraries and the services they offer are something very special indeed. Quarter after quarter this editor has faithfully sent out postal cards requesting news for this section. Replies, for the most part, have been brief and spasmodic, and I have worried over the reason why. Now I know; the librarians are all too busy performing the special services their very designation implies.

On my cards this quarter I requested in addition to news, information on the various libraries, the services offered, the people served, their special reason for being. Replies were enthusiastic, and the materials will be incorporated in a special article in which we hope to make clear all that is covered by the broad term 'special libraries.'

News Small

Enthusiasm for their libraries was great, but news was brief from busy special librarians. Nell Davis, Librarian Director of the Lauren Rogers Library and Museum of Art, Laurel, told of two recent exhibits of interest. During May there was a joint show by two native Mississippians, Modern Primitives by Theora Hamblett and Representational Paintings by Joshua Meador. In addition, in honor of Laurel's Diamond Jubilee celebration, the library presented an exhibit of early Laurel scenes and citizens, old newspapers, land patents, programs, reports, records, selected from the library files of Laurel history.

The Greenville Air Force Base Library has also had an exhibit this quarter, a religious are art exhibit done by a self-taught civilian employee at the Base. Greenville and Keesler have both been busy with the annual Base level Air Force Short Story Contests and publicity scrapbook entries for the John Cotton Dana Awards.

The Department of Archives and History has been hosting Mr. E. B. Long of Chicago, director of research for the centennial history of the Civil War to be written by Bruce Catton. Mr. Long spent several days reading diaries written during the Civil War; so remember when you read Mr. Catton's history that the Mississippi Department of Archives and History made its contribution to the classic volume.

Names in the News

Mrs. Patti Black assumed the job of librarian of the Department of Archives and History on April 1, 1957.

Mrs. Edith Everett, Assistant Librarian at Keesler Air Force Base, became Technical Librarian and Head of the Technical Branch, Keesler, on April 1, 1957.

Mrs. Virginia Keaton, formerly with the Brookley Air Force Base Library, Mobile, Alabama, is now Medical Librarian at the Keesler Air Force Base Hospital.

Mrs. Ruth Baxter of the Veterans Administration Center, Jackson, attended the meeting of the Medical Library Association in New York City, May 6-10, and a VA Librarians' Workshop on May 6 at the VA Hospital in New York.

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Notice to Special Librarians

MLN's reporter for the special library news is anxious to have an accurate, upto-date mailing list for such libraries.

If you have not done so very recently, will you please send the following information to Mrs. Ruth D. Scharr, Base Librarian, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi: (1) The official name of your library (2) Name of the company or organization (if not included in the name of the library) (3) Mailing address (4) Name of the head librarian.

Help the special libraries get on the mapl

Reading Habits Of VA Patients

(Editor's Note: The following article is reprinted from the Stars and Stripes of January 17, 1957.)

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Veteran-patients in Veterans Administration hospitals don't just lie in bed between medical treatments. They read.

A survey of reading habits of hospitalized veterans, released by VA, disclosed that VA patients read six times as many books as does the general American public.

The four-month survey was conducted by the VA library division in all of the agency's 176 hospitals and domiciliary homes to improve VA's library facilities by finding out what veteran-patients like to read. Paperback books and magazines were not included in the study.

The survey showed that fiction was preferred to non-fiction by almost two to one margin.

In fiction, the patients' tastes ran first to Westerns; second to mystery stories; and third, to historical novels. Science fiction and sports stories were at the bottom of the list.

In non-fiction, biographies were most popular, followed (in order) by books about history, travel, religion and philosophy, and science. Books on fine arts, sports and hobbies were read the least.

VA said the low rating accorded sports does not mean that veteran-patients are not interested in sport subjects. They seem to do their sport reading in newspapers and magazines, rather than in books.

According to the survey, libraries in VA hospitals and domiciliaries circulate more than 1,270,000 books a year to an average daily patient load of 128,000 in hospitals and domiciliaries.

Reasons for the high rate of reading, VA said, are that hospitalized veterans have plenty of free time for books; the library is no more than a short walk from any ward, and mobile library carts bring books to patients' bedsides at least once a week.

Patients undergoing treatment for tuberculosis read more books than all other types of patients combined — 58 a year, or better than one a week. VA explained reading is recommended for tuberculosis patients since they usually are restricted to more passive activities.

On the other hand, veterans being treated for mental illness read the fewest books less than seven a year per patient.

This low rate of reading, VA said, may be a statistical illusion because patients with mental illness are prone to read magazines which require a shorter interest span. Further, VA encourages mental patients to take part in normal activities whenever possible — including visiting the library and doing their reading there away from their own wards. Books read in the library, like magazines, are not included in the survey.

Patients with mental illness do not care for fiction as much as do other VA patients, the survey revealed. They read almost as much non-fiction as fiction, preferring biographies and travel books.

VA said its study was a "sampling of interests," and was unable to take into account certain factors such as the circulation of magazines, and paperback books; reading done in the library itself, and the availability of books.

The reader's choice, VA pointed out, is of necessity limited by what books the library has available.

MLA members should specify very definitely when paying their dues where they want MLN mailed. The mailing list is made up from the list turned in to the editor by MLA's treasurer.

Keeping plates up-to-date is expensive, too. This request is not adressed to MLA members with completely new addresses. MRS. C. C. CLARK

BY WAY OF REPORTING

Adult Education activities are taking a variety of forms in and through public libraries in the State. The following article uses the technique of the photographer, a shot here and a shot there, to report them. The article deals only with those activities that have been reported to the Supervisor of Group Services of the Library Commission.

The Mississippi Division of the American Association of University Women, in cooperation with the Library Commission, has completed a library publicity project. Dr. Dorothy Dickins, State AAUW President, and Miss Laura Rosenzweig, Publicity Chairman, directed the project. The library situations in those localities where there are AAUW branches were studied by the chapters' publicity chairmen and the findings were published in the local newspapers.

A series of four excellent articles on the Fisk Public Library was published in the Natchez Democrat. Miss Evelyn Lopo in consultation with Librarian Elenora Gralow prepared the articles. They were interestingly written from the human interest point of view and highly readable. All phases of the library's services, needs and potentialities along with the rich history

of Fisk were incorporated in the articles which covered the main library and the Negro branch. l f

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Mrs. Rondo Westbrook, Publicity Chairman of the Jackson Branch of AAUW, made a detailed study of the operations, financial and otherwise, of the Jackson Municipal Library and the Capital Area Regional Library. The supporting public of these two outstanding facilities are better informed about what is being accomplished and what services are available under the capable leadership of Miss Pearl Sneed and William Wicker respectively because of Mrs. Westbrook's comprehensive study.

Mrs. Harold F. Kaufman, in cooperation with Mrs. Frances McKay, Librarian of the Oktibbeha County Library, in one article discussed the growth, contribution and needs of the library which is located in Starkville.

OPERATION LIBRARY, adopted as a class one project of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, has gotten off the ground in a big way in Mississippi. The Mississippi Jaycees in cooperation with the Mississippi Library Commission have released a kit of promotional materials. The National Chairman of OPERATION LIBRARY asked that they be made available to state chairmen of the other states. This has been done. Bob Wood and Mrs. C. C. Clark, of the Library Commission field staff, appeared before the Jaycees and Jaycettes in their annual meeting to explain further details of the project.

Jaycee Dr. Ed Moak of Richton is State Chairman of OPERATION LIBRARY, and with the enthusiastic support of John Odom, Executive Secretary of the Mississippi Jaycees, we are definitely on our way and librarians may expect to be approached for library improvement suggestions. The Jaycees at Richton, Fulton and Leakesville have already made notable contributions to the newly established libraries in their

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The discussion group which flourished under American Heritage sponsorship is not dead by any means. Following are brief accounts of activities:

Greenwood-Leflore's main library is currently engaged in a foreign policy discussion under the "super-leadership" of Dan Kelly. The group is using "Great Decision" materials of the Foreign Policy Association.

Itta Bena, a Greenwood-LeFlore branch, has just completed a discussion on current events. Mayor W. S. Curry was the leader. Judging from the pithy comments on the report cards, a "good time was had by all." The Itta Bena group, which has been in operation for a number of years, approaches all issues with candor and enthusiasm.

And that's not all for Greenwood-LeFlore, Librarian Dorothy Hayes keeps adding to her adult activities. This time it is a "Listening Hour" — a music appreciation group in the main library. The group, which is well attended, was fortunate to have as

guest Rosario Carceone, a member of the National Symphony Orchestra. His participation has made this a real cultural treat. Another outstanding contributor was Mrs. A. A. Applewhite. Because Mrs. Applewhite had heard and seen the Easter Service of the Greek Orthodox Church in Paris, she was able to make the recordings of this service live come alive for the listeners.

Meridian Public Library, starting 6 years ago discussing materials dealing with the Democratic idea, progressed through philosophy and last year went high level with Great Books and is continuing this year with the same except "a little more modern" to quote Librarian Jeanne Broach. Justine Mann (Mrs. I. W.) never fails her group and continues to get joy out of leading the discussions. The variety of subject matter discussion is indicated by mention of only a few titles used as reading material. They are, The Man and the State, by Matitain; Schweitzer, an anthology; Three Ways of Thought in Ancient China, by Waley; Patterns of Culture, by Benedict, and Modern Science and Modern Man by Conant.

Yazoo City Library Association, Mrs. M. P. Derden, Librarian, continues for the second year under the stimulating leadership of Herman DeCell and his wife, Harriet. A series on foreign policy, a few sessions on the United Nations, and of all things some sessions on the stock market and investments were climaxed by a discussion on Mississippi History. To quote Leader DeCell, "You may be surprised that it (Mississippi History) was our most successful venture. We had a particularly lively discussion on the problems of Mississippi. The realistic writers' success in publicizing the seamy side of our life - William Faulkner, Tennessee Williams, and other similar writers - deserve much literary praise, but we wish they would occcasionally write something flattering about Mississippi."

(Next Page)

JUNE, 1957

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(From Preceding Page)

Gulfport Carnegie-Harrison County Library, in addition to a Great Books series, completed a series of very current and timely topics. Leader Louis Henderson led the group again this year. Their topics were such questions as, Can the Middle East problem be settled? Can the U. N. cope with today's problems? Is integration of the schools making progress? and many more climaxed by, What implications does the increasing older population have for society? People thinking together about such issues make better citizens. Librarian Maria Person is contemplating a young people's discussion group for the summer, which is an innovation for the Gulfport Library. Miss Carrie Harmon, of the Gulfport High School History Department, will lead the group.

Lee County Library, so writes Elizabeth Holcomb, the enthusiastic librarian, had the leadership trainer for Great Books come down from Memphis to assist in organizing her Great Books group. Lee County's adult education activities included this year a program clinic with the Rural Community Development Clubs which was reported in an earlier issue of Library News.

Biloxi continues with high interest its group which started early in the American Heritage days. Miss Freidhoff, Librarian, felt success was inevitable when the Rev. Glen Lindley consented to lead the group again. They discussed general and specific issues covering a wide range of topics. Trends in foreign policy, transition days in American life, Mississippi's marriage laws and many others were included in this series.

Group Eervices of the Library Commission will promote discussion groups, program planning and leadership training among other adult education activities during the coming year and hopes to see more libraries promoting active adult programs.

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BULLETIN BOARDS WITH A BANG

Barbara Mauldin Jackson Municipal Library

(Editor's note: Bulletin Boards at the Jackson Municipal Library have been more than usually tangy for the past year. The reason is a slim, blue-eyed drama student from Texas, Barbara Mauldin. Barbara's boards always have that bright, eye-catching appeal that we strive for.

"It's no special knack," she insists, "just a little imagination and the most ordinary of tools can light up any old board."

"Well, if it takes no flair, tell us how to do effective boards every time," said ye ed. And here is Barbara's answer . . .)

No large budget is needed for a library to have informative, eye-catching bulletin boards. Construction paper, crepe paper, and even brown wrapping paper or newspaper – plus map or thumb tacks and a little poster paint can be turned into an interesting, appealing display.

Crepe paper makes a pleasant background for a tired old brown bulletin board. It need not be used all the time but occasionally for contrast. Figures illustrating the subject of the display may be made from construction or brown paper, either silhouette or with more detailed outlines done in poster paint. The want ad section of a newspaper may also be cut, rolled or folded to form ingenious and especially humorous displays.

If the display primarily concerns books, it is natural to use book jackets in illustration. However, they should be used sparingly, as three well-chosen, well-placed jackets are far more effective than seven or eight that are pinned up indiscriminately.

When figures and jackets have been chosen, decide which should take precedence. If the jackets are the more interesting, give them the greater amount of space and use small figures; if the figures are the more important, subordinate the jackets to them.

Use only a few colors, or one color and black and white, but always use color boldly. When people are surrounded by countless shades of countless colors as they are every day, they sit up and take notice when one or two definite colors are used strongly. This applies to line and form also. If the figures are given the emphasis, place them on the board so that they flow toward and direct the eye to the jackets.

Although much has been said of using book jackets, a library's bulletin boards should not be limited to selling books. They are one of the best means by which the library can work with and support the community and its organizations, which is, after all, its purpose. Here is free advertising space for community projects and activities, and it may be used well to their advantages. Often civic affairs can be properly integrated with the book jackets.

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HAVE YOU READ?

READING — what is its place in children's lives today? That is the question to which the Spring, 1957, issue of Child Study concerns itself.

Such topics as these are discussed by well-known people:

"What are children reading in this TV age?"

"Consider the non-reader."

"Why do they 'hate' the classics?"

"Toward a love of reading - the library's service to children"

The Library Commission has a copy of this issue of Child Study which may be borrowed on a short-term loan.

SHOULD YOU BE A LIBRARIAN?

The New York Life Insurance Company has recently released a library recruiting brochure by this name. It is a useful pamphlet, done by the director of the New York Public Library System, Edward G. Freehafer.

This brochure is one of a continuing series which NYLIC issues on career opportunities. It is a contribution to recruiting activities of libraries and is available for recruiting programs. Details can be had from the Library Commission, 405 State Office Bldg., Jackson.

A TIME TO REMEMBER

- July 1-13 Courses in public libraries at University, taught by Gretchen Schenk July 4 – Independence Day
- July 28 Workshop for school librarians, Hattiesburg
- September 2 Labor Day
- October 5 Meeting of Region V, student library assistants and school librarians, Jackson
- October 12 Meeting of Region IX, student library assistants and school librarians
- October 17 Meeting of Region II, student library assistants and school librarians, Hattiesburg
- October 19 Meeting of Region X, student library assistants and school librarians, Brookhaven
- October 24 Workshop for public librarians, Clarksdale
- October 24-26 MLA Convention, Clarksdale
- November 2 State meeting of SLAM,
- November 17-23 Children's Book Week

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